

MONTANA CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY CENTER POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Policy Subject: Dental Services	
Policy Number: MNP 11	Standards/Statutes: 37.27.130
Effective Date: 01/01/02	Page 1 of 2

PURPOSE:

To provide dental care to a patient experiencing an acute dental situation.

POLICY:

The program provides treatment for a dental condition that requires an immediate intervention because of acute pain and/or infection.

PROCEDURE:

- I. If a patient reports to staff the need for dental services, the patient is instructed to complete a Medical Request Form.
- II. Patients from the day program are not eligible for dental services through MCDC and need to arrange dental services through the Pre-Release Center.
- III. When a request for dental services is received, the nurse will assess the dental condition and make a determination on the urgency of the patient's dental needs. If the nurse observes signs of an abscess, the patient will be seen by the physician on call to assess the need for antibiotic therapy.
- IV. MCDC patients are not eligible for routine dental services, dental services that involve wisdom teeth, or any dental need that requires an oral surgeon.
- V. If it is decided that the patient is in need of prompt dental care, the nurse makes an appointment for a dental examination. Options for an appointment include:
 - A. Calling the Montana State Hospital dental office. Dental services at MSH is available only 1 to 2 days so patients may experience a 7 to 10 day waiting period before seeing the dentist.
 - B. Calling a local dentist in the surrounding area for the availability of an immediate appointment. This option is used when the dental condition is an acute emergency, i.e. acute infection with

swelling, acute pain that is interfering with the patient's ability to sleep and/or to function in treatment.

C. Giving the patient a medical discharge to have the dental condition taken care of by the patient's personal dentist in their community. This option is used if the dental condition requires an oral surgeon, involves the patient's wisdom tooth, or if MCDC is unable to get an appointment through option 1 or 2.

VI. The nurse will document the time and date of the appointment in the appointment book, and will also notifies the transportation officer and the patient's counselor.

VII. For patients going to the MSH dentist, a copy of the physical exam and the medication administration record will accompany the patient.

VIII. If the patient is going to a local dentist, a Request for Medical Services form needs to be completed. The white copy accompanies the patient, and the yellow copy is given to reimbursement.

IX. MCDC will provide transportation to and from the dentist. The nurse needs to make a notation in the patient's chart indicating the time the patient left MCDC for the dentist. When the patient returns from the dentist, the nurse will interview the patient to find out what services were provide to the patient, and review and initiate any orders received from the dentist. If there was a tooth extraction, the nurse will educate the patient regarding proper post-extraction care.

Revisions:

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